THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b) A criminal case has been registered on 22-1-1990 by the CBI. On the request of the Indian authorities, six Swiss Bank Accounts have been frozen by the Swiss authorities on 26-1-1990. A letter rogatory has been given to the Swiss authorities on 9-2-90. Further investigations are in progress.

Rise in the prices of paper for book publishing

1718. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of paper needed for publishing books have increased enormously during the recent years;

(b) whether the said price rises have adversely affected the book publishing industry in India and this fact was adequately brought out at the International Book Fair recently held in Delhi;

(c) whether the matter has been studied by Government; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to encourage book publishing industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) to (c) The price of paper has increased by about 40 per cent in the average over the last one and a half years on account of substantial increase in the prices of various inputs that go into production.

Increase in the price of paper is a factor which has adversely affected the publishing industry; and this was brought out in discussions at the various seminars organised during the Ninth World Book Fair, 13—18, February, 1990 held at New Delhi, as was also seen in the prices of books on display.

(d) Subject to ceilings, white printing paper is supplied at subsidised rates for the Education sector for production of School Text Books. The following schemes/ activities are also being undertaken by the National Book Trust, India to encourage Book Publishing Industry;

(i) scheme for the subsidised publication of books;

(ii) an exploratory scheme to encourage private publishers and voluntary agencies to produce reading material for for the continuing education of neo-literates and school drop-outs;

(iii) an exploratory scheme to encourage private publishers and voluntary agencies to produce books for children;

(iv) scheme to set up a National Centre for Children's Literature.

(v) organisation of book fairs, book festivals and National Book Week;

(vi) participation in international book fars to promote export of Indian publications;

(vii) scheme for financial assistance to registered voluntary organisations for holding book exhibitions/book festivals/book fairs to augment book promotional activities and

(viii) Readers'. Club movement.

Foreign visits of investigating officers in connection with Bofors pay-offs

1719. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what progress have been made by Government since December 28th, 1989

to uncover the names of beneficiaries in the Bofors pay-off scandal; and

(b) what are the names of Government officials who have visited Switzerland, Sweden and other countries for the investigation into this scandal, and the expenditure incurred on these visits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) An FIR was lodged by the CBI on 22-1-90 in a Court of Law. At the request of the CBI, the Swiss authorities have frozen on 26-1-1990 six Swiss Bank Accounts connected with the investigations into the Bofors transaction. A Letter Rogatory was delivered to the Swiss authorities on 9-2-1990. The investigations are still in progress.

(b) A team of four officers (S|Shri Bhure Lal, Joint Secretary PMO; Arun Jaitly, Addl. Solicitor-General, Ministry of Law; K. Madhavan and R. M. Singh, DIG and SP, respectively, of the CBI) visited Switzerland and Sweden. Normal expenditure on Travelling Allowance and Daily Allowance, as admissible to the officers under the normal rules, was incurred on their visits.

Co-operation of foreign investigation agencies in the gun deal

1720. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the conclusions of the team which has visited recently Switzerland and Sweden in connection with the enquiry on the Bofors Howitzer gun deal;

(b) whether the team had been in touch with any foreign investigating agency or interpol in this connection;

(c) if so, whether any foreign investigating agency has assured its cooperation in the matters; and

(d) if so, what progress has been achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MININSTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) to (d) A team of officers, which visited Switzerland and Sweden recently, contacted the concerned agencies in these countries and were promised cooperation in the matter. Six Swiss Bank Accounts were frozen by the Swiss authorities on 26-1-1990. The investigations are continuing and as conclusions can be drawn till these are completed.

Ban on advertisements of baby food on All India Radio and Doordarshan

1721. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have suspended advertisements of all baby foods on AIR and Doordarshan to promote breast feeding and are thinking of banning their avertisements in print media also;

(b) whether it is a fact that manufacturers and their distributors offer big incentives to private hospitals and nursing homes by supplying baby foods at highly concessional rate to push their sales; and

(c) whether Government proposes to place restrictions on private hospitals and nursing homes for accepting free samples of baby foods and feeding bottles and also pass an 'Infant Milks Foods and Feeding Bottles (Regulation of Production and Distribution) Bill' to help promote breast-feeding in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) The Information and Broadcasting Ministry have decided that the avertisements for baby foods can be accepted by AIR and Doordarshan so long as the manufacturers and distributors of these products do not promote them as being suitable for use as partial or total